

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00683 071418Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 071306Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2453
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0683

STOCKHOLM FOR RSO
FRANKFURT FOR CO SUBUNIT CO "A"
LONDON FOR RBMO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, ABLD
SUBJECT: FIRE IN EMBASSY CHANCERY

1. SUMMARY: ON SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1978 AT APPROXIMATELY 2030 HOURS A SMALL FIRE CAUSED MINIMAL DAMAGE TO THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE EMBASSY CHANCERY. THERE WERE NO INJURIES. POST REQUESTS FUNDS FOR REPLACEMENT/REPAIR OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY FIRE. POST ALSO REQUESTS FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC SMOKE DETECTION EQUIPMENT AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM FOR CHANCERY AND CHANCERY ANNEX.

2. THE FIRE WAS APPARENTLY CAUSED BY FAULTY WIRING IN A TABLE LAMP IN THE RECEPTION AREA. THE MARINE GUARD ON DUTY, THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL IN THE CHANCERY AT THE TIME, SMELLED SMOKE, INVESTIGATED THE SOURCE, AND DISCOVERED THE FIRE, HE SOUNDED THE MARINE REACTION ALARM, RETURNED TO THE FIRE AND EXTINGUISHED IT. A LAMP, A SET OF DRAPES AND CARPETING BURNED AND WALL AND DOORFRAME PAINT
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WAS SEARED.

3. THE MARINE ON DUTY, SGT STEVEN C. DIETZ, PERFORMED WITH EXCELLENCE. THE OTHER MARINES ARRIVED AT THE CHANCERY WITHIN MINUTES OF THE SOUNDING OF THE REACTION ALARM.

4. POST REQUESTS \$1500 FOR REPLACEMENT OF LAMP, DRAPES, AND RUG DAMAGED IN FIRE, AND \$500 FOR REPAINTING OF DOOR, CEILING AND WALL.

5. CHANCERY AND ANNEX DO NOT PRESENTLY HAVE SMOKE DETECTION OR FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS. PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEM WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$1000 ELECTRONIC SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEM PROVIDING COVERAGE TO ALL OFFICES AND CORRIDORS AND CONNECTED TO THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD POST WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$10,000. REQUEST FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES.
RIDGWAY

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NNN

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